

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims now pending; this listing replaces all earlier versions and listings of the claims.

Claim 1. (Currently Amended): A multifunction apparatus, ~~which is so~~ adapted such that any device of a plurality of types of devices can be selectively attached thereto, for executing control on an attached device, wherein the control ~~[[that]]~~ differs depending upon the type of device attached, ~~[[the]]~~ said apparatus comprising:

transmitting means for transmitting a timing signal, ~~which is to the attached device for acquiring identifying information stored in [[an]] the attached device, to the attached device;~~

receiving means for receiving the identifying information, represented as digital information comprising a plurality of bits of information, including specific data indicating the type of the attached device and characteristic data of the attached device that has been ~~[[sent]]~~ transmitted serially from the attached device in accordance with the timing signal;

determination means for determining, with regard to a device of a specific type, whether values of respective bits of information contained in the specific data contained in the identifying information is indicative of a predetermined value correspond to respective ones of a predetermined bit pattern, the specific data comprising two or more bits of information transmitted in succession including different values, and the number of bits of information being less than that of the plurality of bits of information; and

control means for exercising control on the attached device, upon construing that the attached device is of the specific type in a case where ~~[[the]]~~ said determination means ~~has determined~~ determines that the values of the respective bits of information contained in the specific data is indicative of the predetermined value correspond to respective ones of the predetermined bit pattern.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended): ~~[[The]]~~ An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control means includes means for giving notification of the fact that the attached device has not been electrically connected correctly, if said determination means ~~has determined~~ determines that the specific data is not indicative of the predetermined value.

Claim 3. (Canceled)

Claim 4. (Currently Amended): ~~[[The]]~~ An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined value is such that the values of the bits of information thereof differ alternately.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended): ~~[[The]]~~ An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of types of devices include a device of the type having an information input function and a device of the type having an information output function.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended): ~~[[The]]~~ An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of types of devices include a scanner unit for reading a document image and a printhead cartridge for outputting an image to a printing medium.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended): ~~[[The]]~~ An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the printhead cartridge includes an ink-jet printhead for printing by discharging ink, and an ink tank containing ink supplied to ~~[[said]]~~ the printhead.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended): ~~[[The]]~~ An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the printhead discharges ink by utilizing thermal energy and has a thermal energy converter for generating thermal energy applied to the ink.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended): A method of identifying a device that has been attached to a multifunction apparatus, ~~which is so~~ adapted such that any device of a plurality of types of devices can be selectively attached thereto, for executing control on an attached device wherein the control ~~[[that]]~~ differs depending upon the type of ~~devices~~ device attached, ~~[[the]]~~ said method comprising the steps of:

transmitting a timing signal, ~~which is to the attached device~~ for acquiring identifying information stored in an attached device, ~~to the attached device;~~

receiving the identifying information, represented as digital information comprising a plurality of bits of information, including specific data indicating the type of the attached device and characteristic data of the attached device that has been ~~[[sent]]~~ transmitted serially from the attached device in accordance with the timing signal;

determining, with regard to a device of a specific type, whether values of respective bits of information contained in the specific data ~~contained in the identifying information is indicative of a predetermined value~~ correspond to respective ones of a predetermined bit pattern, the specific data comprising two or more bits of information transmitted in succession including different values, and the number of bits of information being less than that of the plurality of bits of information; and

exercising control on the attached device, upon construing that the attached device is of the specific type in a case where it has been determined in said ~~determination~~ determining step that the values of respective bits of information contained in the specific data is indicative of the predetermined value correspond to respective ones of the predetermined bit pattern.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended): ~~[[The]]~~ A method according to claim 9, wherein said control step further includes a step of giving notification of the fact that the attached device has not been electrically connected correctly, if it is determined in said ~~determination~~ determining step that the specific data is not indicative of the predetermined value.

Claim 11. (Canceled)

Claim 12. (Currently Amended): ~~[[The]]~~ A method according to claim 9, wherein the predetermined value is such that the values of the bits of information thereof differ alternately.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended): ~~[[The]]~~ A method according to claim 9, wherein the plurality of types of devices include a device of the type having an information input function and a device of the type having an information output function.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended): ~~[[The]]~~ A method according to claim 9, wherein the plurality of types of devices include a scanner unit for reading a document image and a printhead cartridge for outputting an image to a printing medium.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended): A computer program product executed by a multifunction apparatus, ~~which is so~~ adapted such that any device of a plurality of types of devices can be selectively attached thereto, for executing control on an attached device, wherein the control ~~[[that]]~~ differs depending upon the type of ~~devices~~ device attached, said computer program product having program code ~~corresponding to the following steps~~ comprising:

code for transmitting a timing signal, ~~which is to the attached device~~ for acquiring identifying information stored in an attached device, ~~to the attached device~~;

code for receiving the identifying information, represented as digital information comprising a plurality of bits of information, including specific data indicating the type of the attached device and characteristic data of the attached device that has been sent serially from the attached device in accordance with the timing signal;

code for determining, with regard to a device of a specific type, whether values of respective bits of information contained in the specific data ~~contained in the identifying information is indicative of a predetermined value~~ correspond to respective

ones of a predetermined bit pattern, the specific data comprising two or more bits of information transmitted in succession including different values, and the number of bits of information being less than that of the plurality of bits of information; and

code for exercising control on the attached device, upon construing that the attached device is of the specific type in a case where it has been determined ~~[[in]]~~ by said code for the determining determination step that the values of respective bits of information contained in the specific data ~~is indicative of the predetermined value~~ correspond to respective ones of the predetermined bit pattern.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer program executed by a multifunction apparatus, ~~which is so~~ adapted such that any device of a plurality of types of devices can be selectively attached thereto, for executing control on an attached device that differs depending upon the type of ~~devices~~ device attached, said computer program comprising program code ~~corresponding to the following steps of comprising:~~

code for transmitting a timing signal; ~~which is to the attached device for~~ acquiring identifying information stored in an attached device; ~~to the attached device;~~

code for receiving the identifying information, represented as digital information comprising a plurality of bits of information, including specific data indicating the type of the attached device and characteristic data of the attached device that has been sent serially from the attached device in accordance with the timing signal;

code for determining, with regard to a device of a specific type, whether values of respective bits of information contained in the specific data ~~contained in the~~

~~identifying information is indicative of a predetermined value~~ correspond to respective ones of a predetermined bit pattern, the specific data comprising two or more bits of information transmitted in succession including different values, and the number of bits of information being less than that of the plurality of bits of information; and

exercising control on the attached device upon construing that the attached device is of the specific type in a case where it has been determined ~~[[in]]~~ by said code for the determining ~~determination~~ step that the values of respective bits of information contained in the specific data ~~is indicative of the predetermined value~~ correspond to respective ones of the predetermined bit pattern.